



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 4

Vol. 63 December 2009 Scottsdale Police Department District 4 Station 20363 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale AZ. 85255 (480) 312-8800



SAFE SHOPPING

The holiday season is upon us and for those who still have some shopping to do, like myself, we would like to offer the following advice on shopping safely.

Internet Shopping

Make sure the security software and operating system for your computer has been updated recently.

Shop at sites you trust or have used in the past.

Use a credit card rather than a debit card or your checking account number for online purchases. A credit card offers you more protection in the event of a problem with your purchase. Some banks offer a one time use account number that is good for a single transaction or a few specific transactions. Check with your bank or card issuer to see if they offer this service or a similar one.

When preparing to make the online purchase, check the address box for the website and look for the "s" in the https:// and in the lower right corner for a lock symbol. If you are not sure, right click anywhere on the webpage and select properties. This will display the real URL (Web site) address and a dialog box will indicate if the site is encrypted.

If making a purchase using your credit card/debit card, make sure you put it right back in your purse or wallet before leaving the point of sale.

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From The Desk Of Commander Bill Wilton

I hope that you are enjoying your holiday season and that you are blessed with good health, family and friends.

Unfortunately, given the state of the economy, the mortgage and foreclosure scams are on the increase. "Foreclosure Bail-out" and "Mortgage Elimination Scams" are a couple of the common ones.

A good rule of thumb is if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. To learn more about the various scams related to foreclosures and mortgages visit: www.fraudproblem.com or www.mortgagefraud.com

I would encourage you to watch over any vacant or foreclosed properties that may be in your neighborhood. Please report any activity that is suspicious immediately to the police department. If you are uncertain if the activity is suspicious call us any way to be on the safe side at 480-312-5000.

The New Year is a great time to begin a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch is citizens and the police department working together in partnership to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. Neighbors have the opportunity to get to know each other and become an additional set of eyes and ears in their community for the police department. To learn more contact Neighborhood Watch coordinator Joy Racine @ 480-312-2342.

Commander Bill Wilton
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(safe shopping continued)

Keep your purse close to you at all times. When walking, carry it close to your body. If you have to place it in the shopping cart, keep it zipped up and keep a close eye on it. Do not leave your purse unattended in the shopping cart, even for a minute. Carry your wallet in your front pants pocket or inside a jacket pocket.

Shop with a friend or relative, there is safety in numbers. Always be aware of your surroundings. Assume a confident, erect posture and walk with a steady pace. If you are walking or shopping alone choose well-lit and populated routes.

If shopping in the late afternoon or evening try to park close to the business and under or near parking lot lighting. It gets darker earlier this time of the year and you may be in the store longer than you anticipated.

When returning to your car, have your keys ready and in your hand.

When walking to your car be aware of your surroundings. Ask for security or an employee to escort you or watch you walk to your car if you feel unsafe.

If possible, keep packages and bags secured in the trunk of your car if you are not going directly home after your purchase. If your car does not have a trunk, cover the packages or bags with a blanket or towel.

Keep your car locked at all times, even while driving. Consider using an anti-theft device including: an alarm system or a steering wheel lock.

Police departments around the valley have increased patrols of the malls during the holiday season. If you observe suspicious activity at the shopping mall please contact the police at 480-312-5000. If it is a crime in progress or a medical call dial 9-1-1.

The holiday season is a time for sharing and spending time with family and friends. We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Jason Glenn at (480) 312-8802 jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov or District 4 Police Aide Shannon Ziemba at (480)312-8801 sziemba@scottsdaleaz.gov

Watch Your Car Program

The Watch Your Car program combats auto theft. Owners enroll with the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority and attach Watch Your Car decals to their vehicle (rear window).

By displaying the decal, vehicle owners are telling law enforcement they do not usually use their vehicle between 1:00 AM and 5:00AM, when the majority of auto-thefts occur. If a police officer observes the vehicle in operation between these hours, the owner gives the police permission to stop the vehicle and verify it is being legally operated by the rightful owner.

For more information or to enroll, please visit www.azwatchyourcar.com

Also consider having your motor vehicle vin-etched. Vin-etching is a process where our auto-theft Detectives acid-etch your vehicles VIN number on the glass of your vehicle at Public Safety Events. Thieves would need to replace the glass before selling the stolen vehicle or would be unable to sell the glass at a "chop shop."

Upcoming Events:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection day

When: January 9th, 2010

Time: 07:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: City Corporation Yard 9191 E. San Salvador

Rid your home of household hazardous wastes by bringing them to the City Corporation Yard for FREE disposal. For a list of accepted items, visit www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle or call 480-312-5600

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department Non-Emergency** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817